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February 23, 2004

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1904

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Dear Senator Collins:

I read with concern about the rule changes under discussion by the FCC to allow the deployment of Broad Band Over Powerlines (BPL). According to reports by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams (REACT), several federal, state, and local agencies, and research from Europe and Japan, this technology would cause great harm to many frequencies used in emergency and national security communications. In addition, the access it provides to certain customers would be constantly disrupted by these other services.

As you know, REACT lends its assistance to public agencies in times of disaster and performs significant public service as well. Citizen's Band radio forms the backbone of our communications efforts, and CB frequencies at 27 MHz are right in the middle of the frequencies that will be most affected by BPL.

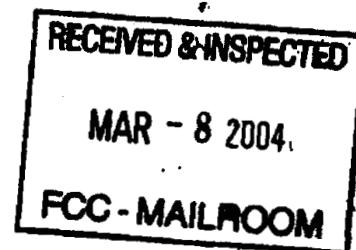
Further, BPL would seem to be of itself a marginal technology at best. According to the reports I have read, it would be prohibitively expensive in cases where it has been touted as meeting a need, i.e., rural areas.

Please, Senator, use your influence to protect our ability to provide public service.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jim Koritzky

Jim Koritzky, President
Maine REACT Council
42 Sunbury Rd.
Bangor, ME 04401-3353



Cc: Sen. Snowe, Rep. Michaud, Rep. Allen, REACT Intl., Gov. Baldacci, Secretary Ridge, Chairman Powell

